Amendments to the claims:

1. (original): A method comprising:

obtaining fingerprint data from a file header associated with a file, the fingerprint data being associated with contents of the file;

checking the integrity of the fingerprint data;

if the check leaves doubt about the fingerprint data thus obtained, then recalculating fingerprint data from contents of the file; and

transmitting the fingerprint data to a database.

2. (original): The method of claim 1 that includes:

accessing a database record corresponding to the transmitted fingerprint data, to obtain associated information; and

returning at least some of said associated information to a computer device from which the fingerprint data was transmitted.

3. (original): The method of claim 1 in which the file contents comprise audio.

4. (original): The method of claim 1 in which checking includes checking a digital signature.

5. (original): The method of claim 1 in which the checking includes decrypting fingerprint data from the header and authenticating the decrypted data.

6. (original): The method of claim 5 that includes applying an inverse modification to the fingerprint in the header prior to said decrypting.

7. (original): The method of claim 1 that includes applying an inverse modification to the fingerprint in the header.

8. (original): A method comprising:

obtaining watermark data from a file header associated with a file, the watermark data being associated with contents of the file;

checking the integrity of the watermark data;

if the check leaves doubt about the watermark data thus obtained, then detecting watermark data from contents of the file; and

transmitting the watermark data to a database.

9. (original): The method of claim 8 that includes:

accessing a database record corresponding to the transmitted watermark data, to obtain associated information; and

returning at least some of said associated information to a computer device from which the watermark data was transmitted.

10. (original): The method of claim 8 in which the file contents comprise audio.

11. (original): The method of claim 8 in which checking includes checking a digital signature.

12. (original): The method of claim 8 in which the checking includes decrypting watermark data from the header and authenticating the decrypted data.

13. (original): The method of claim 12 that includes applying an inverse modification to the watermark in the header prior to said decrypting.

14. (original): The method of claim 12 that includes applying an inverse modification to the watermark in the header.

15. (new): A method comprising:

(a) obtaining identifier data by reference to first data conveyed with a file;

(b) if there is cause to doubt the identifier data thereby obtained, then deriving identifier data from contents of the file by application of an algorithm thereto; and

(c) taking action based on said derived identifier.

16. (new): The method of claim 15 in which act (a) comprises:

reading first data conveyed in a header of said file;

by reference to said first data, consulting a remote repository to obtain identifier data corresponding to said first data.

17. (new): The method of claim 15 in which act (c) comprises transmitting the derived identifier to a remote database.

18. (new): The method of claim 15 in which act (b) comprises authenticating the first data.

19. (new): The method of claim 18 in which said authenticating proceeds with reference to a hash.

20. (new): The method of claim 18 in which the authenticating proceeds with reference to CRC bits.